

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
January 15, 2025

A regularly called meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure was held on January 15, 2025, at 1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Suite 200B, Jackson, MS, after being duly noticed on the Mississippi Public Notice website, this Board's website, and the front door of the Board's offices in accordance with law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Y. Owens, M.D., Jackson, President
C. Kenneth Lippincott, M.D., Tupelo, Vice President
Thomas Joiner, M.D., Jackson, Secretary via Zoom

ALSO PRESENT:

Paul Barnes, Board Attorney, Complaint Counsel
Kenneth Cleveland, Executive Director
Alexis Morris, Special Assistant Attorney General
Mike Lucius, Deputy Director
Jay Ledbetter, Chief of Staff
Anna Boone, Director of Licensure Division
Jonathan Dalton, Director of Investigations
Jerod Smoote, IT Director
Jackie McKenzie, Legal Assistant
Frances Carrillo, Executive Assistant
Kaelin Hanson, IT

PERSONAL APPEARANCE BY JAMES HUGHES, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI LICENSE 07497

Dr. Hughes joined the meeting and was not represented by legal counsel. Dr. Hughes executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Dr. Hughes briefly summarized his request seeking an exception to the regulation, Part 2601, Duty to Obtain License, Rule 1.3, which states a physician who has not actively practiced for a three (3) year period shall be required to participate in a Board approved assessment program, clinical skills assessment program or re-entry program. Dr. Hughes retired in 2012 and has not clinically practiced since 2012.

After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Joiner, and carried to close the meeting to enter into executive session for deliberation regarding a course of action.

Upon a motion by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Joiner and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at which time Dr. Owens asked Dr. Lippincott to report the Executive Committee's decision. Dr. Lippincott reported that the decision is to **DENY** Dr. Hughes request for reinstatement. However, if Dr. Hughes completes and passes a neuropsychic

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examination and a CPEP course for clinical competency he can ask the Executive Committee to reconsider his application for reinstatement of his medical license.

ZOOM APPEARANCE BY CLIFTON S. SCOTT, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 26857 and
JOSHUA GRIFFIN, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 20158
Accompanied by Dana Davis, NP

Dr. Griffin joined the meeting with Dr. Scott. Neither was represented by legal counsel. Dr. Griffin and Dr. Scott both executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Dr. Griffin briefly summarized his practice in Oxford, MS, in the specialty of Urology and trained in Hormone Replacement and requested an exception to Rule 1.4, Mileage extension; and to the 20/80 hour in-state physician practice requirement of the regulation, Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, Part 2630.

Dr. Scott requested an exception to Part 2630 Chapter 1: The Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, Rule 1.2 (A) working the minimum of twenty (20) hours per week or eighty (80) hours per month.

After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Joiner, and carried unanimously to close the meeting to consider whether to enter into executive session for deliberation regarding a course of action.

Upon a motion by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Joiner and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at which time Dr. Owens asked Dr. Lippincott to report the Executive Committee's decision. Dr. Lippincott reported that the decision is to **DENY** the request for exception to the 20/80-hour rule and 75-mile rule to practice telehealth.

ZOOM APPEARANCE BY MELISSA M. SINOPOLI, PA-C
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE PA00043

Paul Barnes, Esq., introduced Ms. Melissa M. Sinopoli, PA-C.

Ms. Sinopoli joined the meeting via Zoom. Ms. Sinopoli was not represented by legal counsel. She executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Ms. Sinopoli introduced herself and briefly summarized the request for an exception of Part 2601 and Rule 1.3 relating to re-entry practice plan approved by the Executive Director but requires Board approval in lieu of a clinical assessment.

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After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Joiner, and carried that the Executive Committee enter into executive session for deliberation regarding a course of action.


Upon a motion by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Joiner and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at which time Dr. Owens asked Dr. Lippincott to report the Executive Committee's decision. Dr. Lippincott reported that the decision is to **APPROVE** the re-entry plan.

STATUS REPORT BY DR. CLEVELAND

Dr. Cleveland provided a brief summary regarding events and activities for the months of November and December 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10:02 a.m.


Michelle Y. Owens, M.D.
President

Minutes taken and transcribed.
By Jackie McKenzie
Legal Assistant
November 20, 2024

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE



Board Room

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 8:00 am

Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10:00 am

Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 8:00 am

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure
Wednesday, January 15, at 8:00 am

1. Personal Appearance by James Hughes, M.D.
Mississippi Medical License
Brandon, MS

2. Zoom Appearance by Clifton S. Scott, M.D. Joshua Griffin, M.D.
Mississippi Medical License 26857 Mississippi Medical License 20158
Starkville, MS Oxford, MS

3. Zoom Appearance by Melissa M. Sinopoli, PA-C
Mississippi Medical License PA00043
Ocean Springs, MS

4. Executive Director Report



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Agreement to Appear Informally Before Executive Committee by Current Licensee

I, JAMES LANCASTON HUGHES have been asked to appear informally before the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss issues which may relate to my practice and possible the grounds, if any, for disciplinary action, and possible resolution of the same. It is the purpose of the informal meeting to discuss the facts of the case, to give me an opportunity to ask questions of the Committee or its staff, and to give the Committee or its staff an opportunity to ask questions of me. Because the meeting is informal, no disciplinary action will be taken without my express written consent. In so doing, I have been advised and understand the following:

- 1. During the meeting, the Executive Committee may or may not be represented by legal counsel. Notwithstanding, I understand that I have a right, if I so choose, to employ legal counsel and have counsel present during the informal meeting.
2. I authorize the Committee Members to review and examine any statements, documentary evidence, or materials concerning the possible grounds for disciplinary action against my license.
3. Because the purpose of my appearance is to avoid a hearing before the Board, I agree that presentation to and consideration by the Committee of any facts, matters, and documents pertaining to my case shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Committee members from further participation or consideration in the event a formal hearing is later conducted. Stated differently, in the event the pending matter is not resolved following my appearance before the Committee, I will not object to any of the Committee members from further participating in subsequent meetings or hearings that may be conducted in relation to this matter.
4. By signing my name in the space provided below, I hereby authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with the informal appearance, subject to the stipulations and understandings as noted above. I have elected to proceed:

with legal counsel present (name of counsel:)

without legal counsel present

EXECUTED, this the 3 day of January, 2020



Licensee: James Lanston Hughes

Witness: Denny Williams



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

**Agreement to Appear Informally Before the Board by Licensee
Requesting Rule Exception(s)**

I, Clifton S. Scott, MD, have requested an opportunity to appear informally before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss my request for exception(s) to certain rules or requirements found in Administrative Code or state statute that I have identified below. It is the purpose of this meeting to discuss the facts surrounding my request, to give me an opportunity to present documentation and ask questions of the Board or its staff, and to give the Board or its staff an opportunity to review any documentation and ask questions of me. Because the meeting is informal, no disciplinary action will be taken without my express written consent. In so doing, I have been advised and understand the following:

1. During the meeting, the Board may or may not be represented by legal counsel. Notwithstanding, I understand that I have a right, if I so choose, to employ legal counsel and have counsel present during the meeting.
2. I authorize the Board to review and examine any documentation or materials concerning my request(s).
3. I agree that presentation to and consideration by the Board of any facts, matters, and documents pertaining to my request(s) shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board members from further participation or consideration, in the event a formal hearing is later conducted based on the information discussed. Further, I will not object to any of the Board members participating in subsequent meetings or hearings that may be conducted in relation to this matter.
4. By signing my name in the space provided below, I hereby authorize the Board to proceed with the informal appearance, subject to the stipulations and understandings as noted above. I have elected to proceed:

with legal counsel present (name of counsel: _____)

without legal counsel present

I am requesting an exception to the following rule(s):

20/80 in-state practice requirement

the 75-mile rule (Extended Mileage)

EXECUTED, this the 26 day of November, 2024.

Licensee: 

Witness: _____



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

**Agreement to Appear Informally Before the Board by Licensee
Requesting Rule Exception(s)**

I, Joshua Griffin, MD, have requested an opportunity to appear informally before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss my request for exception(s) to certain rules or requirements found in Administrative Code or state statute that I have identified below. It is the purpose of this meeting to discuss the facts surrounding my request, to give me an opportunity to present documentation and ask questions of the Board or its staff, and to give the Board or its staff an opportunity to review any documentation and ask questions of me. Because the meeting is informal, no disciplinary action will be taken without my express written consent. In so doing, I have been advised and understand the following:

1. During the meeting, the Board may or may not be represented by legal counsel. Notwithstanding, I understand that I have a right, if I so choose, to employ legal counsel and have counsel present during the meeting.
2. I authorize the Board to review and examine any documentation or materials concerning my request(s).
3. I agree that presentation to and consideration by the Board of any facts, matters, and documents pertaining to my request(s) shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board members from further participation or consideration, in the event a formal hearing is later conducted based on the information discussed. Further, I will not object to any of the Board members participating in subsequent meetings or hearings that may be conducted in relation to this matter.
4. By signing my name in the space provided below, I hereby authorize the Board to proceed with the informal appearance, subject to the stipulations and understandings as noted above. I have elected to proceed:

with legal counsel present (name of counsel: _____)
 without legal counsel present

I am requesting an exception to the following rule(s):

20/80 in-state practice requirement
 the 75-mile rule (Extended Mileage)

EXECUTED, this the 9th day of December, 2024.

Licensee: _____

Witness: _____



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Agreement to Appear Informally Before Executive Committee by Current Licensee

I, Melissa Sinopoli have been asked to appear informally before the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss issues which may relate to my practice and possible the grounds, if any, for disciplinary action, and possible resolution of the same. It is the purpose of the informal meeting to discuss the facts of the case, to give me an opportunity to ask questions of the Committee or its staff, and to give the Committee or its staff an opportunity to ask questions of me. Because the meeting is informal, no disciplinary action will be taken without my express written consent. In so doing, I have been advised and understand the following:

1. During the meeting, the Executive Committee may or may not be represented by legal counsel. Notwithstanding, I understand that I have a right, if I so choose, to employ legal counsel and have counsel present during the informal meeting.
2. I authorize the Committee Members to review and examine any statements, documentary evidence, or materials concerning the possible grounds for disciplinary action against my license.
3. Because the purpose of my appearance is to avoid a hearing before the Board, I agree that presentation to and consideration by the Committee of any facts, matters, and documents pertaining to my case shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Committee members from further participation or consideration in the event a formal hearing is later conducted. Stated differently, in the event the pending matter is not resolved following my appearance before the Committee, I will not object to any of the Committee members from further participating in subsequent meetings or hearings that may be conducted in relation to this matter.
4. By signing my name in the space provided below, I hereby authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with the informal appearance, subject to the stipulations and understandings as noted above. I have elected to proceed:

_____ with legal counsel present (name of counsel: _____)

without legal counsel present

EXECUTED, this the 18 day of December, 2024.

Signed by:
Licensee: Melissa Sinopoli PL 12/18/2024 | 8:01 AM PST
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DocuSigned by:
Witness: Natalie Wall 12/18/2024 | 10:45 AM CST
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